



23 JAN 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 12 December 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The time series behind the chart on main benefits as a % of the working age population that is published in the Sept 2017 benefit Factsheet.*

Please refer to the enclosed table for the figures behind the graph showing the proportion of working age population receiving a main benefit as at the end of September 2012 to as at the end of September 2017. This graph is available on the Ministry's website here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/latest-quarterly-results/all-main-benefits.html

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery

Figures behind the graph published in the Benefit Fact Sheet showing the proportion of working age population receiving a main benefit as at the end of September 2012 to as at the end of September 2017

As at the end of September	Working age population	Number of benefit recipients					Percentage				
		All main benefits	Jobseeker Support	Sole Parent Support	Supported Living Payment	Other	All main benefits	Jobseeker Support	Sole Parent Support	Supported Living Payment	Other
2012	2,708,510	320,942	136,020	86,967	91,376	6,579	11.8%	5.0%	3.2%	3.4%	0.2%
2013	2,720,900	304,394	126,470	79,699	92,072	6,153	11.2%	4.6%	2.9%	3.4%	0.2%
2014	2,762,940	294,321	123,133	72,589	93,852	4,747	10.7%	4.5%	2.6%	3.4%	0.2%
2015	2,820,210	287,167	120,901	67,887	93,850	4,529	10.2%	4.3%	2.4%	3.3%	0.2%
2016	2,885,850	283,875	122,284	64,372	93,257	3,962	9.8%	4.2%	2.2%	3.2%	0.1%
2017	2,950,640	277,220	120,726	59,502	92,847	4,145	9.4%	4.1%	2.0%	3.1%	0.1%

Notes:

- The working age population is based off the 'as at 30 June 2017' population estimates series produced by Statistics NZ.
- Working-age people are aged 18 to 64 years. This definition reflects the minimum age of eligibility for most main benefits and the age of qualification for New Zealand Superannuation.
- "Other" refers to the following benefits: Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment, Emergency Maintenance Allowance, Emergency Benefit, Jobseeker Student Hardship, Widow's Benefit Overseas, and Sole Parent Support Overseas.